(c) Following steps are taken to conserve water used in power stations:—

(i) As per Ministry of Environment and Forests, it is necessasry for all new stations to provide closed cycle cooling water systems where only a very small quantity of cooling water (2-3%) of the once-through system is drawn from the water body for make up purposes. Zero discharge concept is also being adopted wherever possible.

(ii) To reduce consumption of water for ash disposal, ash water recycling system is being provided in all the power stations. Further the utilisation of ash has been made mandatory and the utilities have been directed by Ministry of Environment and Forests to achieve 100% ash utilisation within a stipulated period. This will reduce the consumption of water in thermal power stations for ash disposal.

(iii) In case of coastal locations, seawater is used for condenser cooling.

(iv) Further, new techonology means such as dry cooling of condensers etc. are being considered for optimizing cooling water requirements of Thermal Power Stations.

12.00 NOON

STATEMENT BY MINISTER REGARDING ANSWER TO S.Q.NO. 270

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Sir, I lay on the Table a Statement (in English and Hindi) showing Comprehensive Picture of Assistance for Drought Relief (2002-2003 and 2003-2004 in regard to answer to Starred Question No. 270, in pursuance of the direction by the Deputy Chairman on the 19th December, 2003.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. **Report and Accounts (2002-2003) of the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), Bengalore and related papers.**

II. **Report and Accounts (2002-2003) of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) Bangalore and related Papers.**